



## **Mental Health Update January 26, 2007**

### **Deputy Commissioner Hartman**

Michael Hartman officially begins his new position as Deputy Commissioner of Health for Mental Health on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Commissioner Hartman brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and understanding of Vermont's mental health system to his new role. All of us welcome him to the department and look forward to his leadership and support.

### **The Vermont Integrated Services Initiative Peer Support Services**

Friends of Recovery facilitated the second meeting on peer support for people with co-occurring conditions at the Kingdom Recovery Center. This committee is meeting the fourth Friday of every month at 1 pm beginning February 23rd. Some of the issues discussed at this meeting included stigma and medication for people with co-occurring disorders. The committee is planning to travel to Burlington on February 11th to observe a "Double Trouble" group and learn how to conduct such a meeting. Next steps for the committee include training for Recovery Center support staff and for a Peer Speaker Bureau.

### **Survey of Residential Services System for Children and Youth**

The Division of Mental Health's Child, Adolescent and Family Unit (CAFU) has engaged students of the Vermont Public Managers Program to work on a project that will survey and analyze Vermont's system of residential treatment programs for children with emotional/behavioral challenges. CAFU and the state's interagency case review committee, which evaluates and approves all referrals for residential treatment programs throughout the state, will guide the work of the students to examine the state wide system of residential treatment programs in an attempt to answer the question, "What are the gaps in services in residential programs for children in Vermont's system of care?" The goal of the project will be to address the following specific questions about the system:

- Where are the residential programs located?
- What type of residential structure is most effective?
- What child populations are served?
- What clinical issues are addressed?
- What clinical/behavioral issues are programs not able to serve?
- How many of these children are being sent out of state for treatment?

The CAFU entered this project with a list of observations that they are hoping will be confirmed or refuted by the survey and with the hope of learning how to better address the needs of children and adolescents in need of residential care. Additional goals of this

project are to set up a mechanism to assess the needs in an ongoing manner and to determine if the case review committee is functioning most effectively in its role of evaluating and referring referrals for residential treatment.

Ultimately, it is hoped that this survey will lead to a better understanding of the program gaps, how to address those gaps and how to assure we continuously evaluating the programs for effectiveness and improvements. A progress report on this project will appear in the Update in the late spring.

### **NAMI Walks for the Mind of America**

The NAMI Vermont Walk will take place on May 19 to support mental illness advocacy, research, and support programs. Established across the country by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the May 2007 walk will be the first time volunteers and sponsors will be able to participate in Vermont. NAMI Vermont is organizing volunteer meetings to give people information about the Walk and how to get involved. Information about the Walk is on NAMI Vermont's Web site [www.namivt.org](http://www.namivt.org) or call toll free 1-800-639-6480.

## **FUTURES PROJECT**

### **Futures Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee meets January 29<sup>th</sup> for a full discussion on a number of topics:

- Governor Douglas' budget for mental health
- Vermont State Hospital Governing Body
- VSEA proposal to replace the functions currently provided at VSH

Deputy Commissioner Hartman will attend and offer remarks.

### **Fletcher Allen to Host Psychiatry Conference on February 1**

A full-day agenda focused on recovery and evidence-based practice for inpatient programs is planned for February 1. A major goal of the conference is bringing people together to learn and develop the best thinking on how to apply recovery principles in planning for new inpatient psychiatric programs. It will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in South Burlington from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Registration is \$50 and includes lunch. Call Cindy Gleason at Fletcher Allen (847-1605) for more information or to request financial assistance.

### **Letters of Intent to Develop Crisis Bed Capacity**

Six designated agencies submitted letters of intent to develop full proposals for crisis stabilization/inpatient diversion beds:

Clara Martin Center  
Lamoille County Mental Health Services  
Northwestern Counseling and Support Services

Counseling Service of Addison County  
Northeast Kingdom Human Services  
Rutland Mental Health Services

The letters are posted in a new location on our website. Click on the RFP button on the brown Mental Health topics navigational bar to the right to view the letters of intent. Final proposals are due by February 9, 2007.

## **VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL CENSUS**

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 53 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 53.